27th November 1928]

Alleged theft of furniture of the Adi-Dravida school at Marinampalle.

*718 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the furniture of the Taluk Board Adi-Dravida school at Marinampalle (Sankari Taluk Board) was stolen at night by caste Hindus and burnt;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Adi-Dravida teacher lost some personal property left in the school premises; and

(c) what action, if any, was taken by the President of the Taluk Board in respect of this school?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A copy of the report* received from the President, Taluk Board, Sankari, on the subject is placed on the table. The Government have no further information about the matter.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know the reasons for the furniture being stolen and burnt?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I think it is pure caste prejudice."

Amendment of the Madras Local Boards Act.

*719 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the expenses incurred by the Government in preparing the draft Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act;

(b) the steps taken by the Government after eliciting opinion from the local boards;

(c) the reasons for the delay on the part of the Government in introducing a Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act;

(d) whether the Government propose to do away with nominations altogether in their proposed Bill; and

(e) when the Government propose to introduce the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act?

A.—(a) An expenditure of Rs. 2,576–9–0 was incurred in preparing the draft Bills to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920. It is not possible to state the exact expenditure incurred in connexion with each of the two Bills separately.

(b) & (c) Opinions of local boards were required to be submitted before 15th July 1928. Many local boards did not reply within that date. The Bill with the replies received up to date was placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee at a meeting held on 15th October 1928.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (c) of question No. 562.

(e) The Bill will be introduced as soon as its provisions are finally settled.

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* Printed as Appendix I at page 269 infra.